

REMARKS

Claims 10, 15, 19, and 31 have been amended to specify that the third web is not thermally bonded to the first and second webs. Support for this amendment is found throughout the specification and more specifically on page 7, lines 4-16; page 8, lines 22-16; page 9, line ; page 14, lines 8-10, and page 17, lines 28-33. Claim 15 no longer includes a polymeric film in the Markush group. Claim 31 has also been amended to remove additional limitations. Claim 26 has been cancelled.

Claims 10-15, 19-25, 27, and 31 are pending in the present application. No additional claims fee is believed to be due.

Rejection Under 35 USC 103

The Office Action states that Claims 10-15, 19-23, 26, and 31 have been rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Srinivasan, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,851,935). The Examiner has rejected Claims 19-23 and 26 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palumbo (WO 96/10979) (hereinafter referred to as "Palumbo") and over Kielpikowski, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,842,596) (hereinafter referred to as "Kielpikowski"). To establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. Applicants submit that Srinivasan, Palumbo and Kielpikowski do not meet this requirement.

Claims 10, 19, and 31 now require that the third web material is not thermally bonded to the first and second webs. Neither Srinivasan, Palumbo, nor Kielpikowski teaches or suggests any materials disposed between the outer layers (first and second webs in Applicants invention) other than a polymeric material (Srinivasan), an elastic film (Palumbo) or elastomeric film or nonwoven carrier sheet (Kielpikowski). **These materials are all thermally bond to the outer layers.** Applicants assert that none of the references cited teaches or suggests a laminate web wherein the two outer layers are bonded together through a third layer which is not thermally bonded to the two outer layers. Therefore, one having ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated by the art to develop laminate web of the present invention.

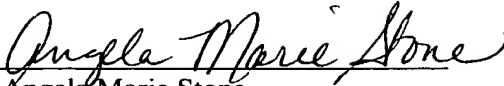
Conclusion

Applicants have made an earnest effort to place their application in proper form and to distinguish the invention as now claimed from the applied references. In view of the foregoing,

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Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application, entry of the amendments presented herein, and allowance of Claims 10-15, 19-25, 27, and 31.

Respectfully submitted,
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